

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 09949 101818Z

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TAGS: FAO

SUBJECT: PROPOSALS ON PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET

/SUMMARY/ - INFORMING MEMBER GOVERNMENTS OF PROGRESS SINCE FAO COUNCIL TOWARD FINALIZING FAO PROPOSALS ON PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET WAS PRIMARILY PURPOSE OF MEETING JULY 9 OF FAO MEMBER NATIONS IN ROME. MEETING ORIGINALLY CALLED BY DDG JACKSON FOR PRECEDING WEEK POSTPONED DUE TO PREOCCUPATION OF SOME COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES WITH IFAD WORKING GROUP, AND IN ABSENCE FROM ROME OF BOTH BOERMA AND JACKSON WAS CHAIRED BY YRIART. PERHAPS INADVERTENTLY, MEETING ALSO CREATED FURTHER FISSURE IN RELATIONSHIPS WITH WFC/IFAD SECRETARIAT.

1. INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL DESCRIBED SESSION AS ONE OF THE STEPS IN THE PROCESS OF THE COUNCIL/CONFERENCE ASSERTING ITS AUTHORITY OVER THE ADMINISTRATION, BUT AT SAME TIME TO DO SO IN SUCH A WAY AS TO PRESERVE THE ESSENTIAL AUTHORITY OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (DG) TO RUN THE ORGANIZATION WITHOUT DETAILED NIT-PICKING FROM THE GOVERNING BODIES.

2. MEETING WAS LARGELY CONFINED TO EXPLANATIONS BY WEST OF SECRETARIAT'S EFFORTS TO COMPLY WITH COUNCIL GUIDANCE IN RESPECT TO PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET.

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PAGE 02 ROME 09949 101818Z

WEST REPORTED THAT PROPOSED INCREASES HAD NOW BEEN REDUCED BY \$9.5 MILLION (23 0/0) AND THE BUDGET TOTAL WAS JUST UNDER \$170 MILLION. HOWEVER, CONSISTENT WITH METHODS USED IN DEVELOPING SUMMARY PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET, CALCULATIONS BASED ON 650 LIRE PER DOLLAR, HENCE FALL SHORT IN HIS OPINION BY \$3 MILLION OF MEETING COUNCIL GUIDANCE FOR \$170 MILLION AT 635 LIRE LEVEL. SUBJECT TO FINAL DECISIONS BY DG ON RETURN FROM DUTY TRAVEL, THIS FURTHER DECREASE WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR COUNCIL/CONFERENCE CONSIDERATION.

3. PRIORITIES HAD BEEN REVIEWED IN LIGHT OF PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT. CUTS HAD TO BE MADE BOTH IN HEADQUARTERS AND REGIONALLY. (INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT USED AS EXAMPLE FOR WHICH MAGNITUDE OF INCREASES SHARPLY CRITICIZED IN COUNCIL, BUT SINCE MOST OF PROPOSED INCREASES WERE FOR REGIONAL FUNCTIONS, THIS IS WHERE CUTS HAD TO BE MADE; PROPOSED TOKYO LIAISON OFFICE ELIMINATED COMPLETELY.) WEST STATED "DG HAS GONE AS FAR AS HE FEELS HE CAN IN CUTS ON INCREASES RELATED TO WFC."

4. COMPARED WITH 626 POSTS INDICATED IN INF 7 (PROPOSALS OF FAO SUBCOMMITTEES), AND WHICH DG HAD SAID HE WOULD REDUCE BY 20 0/0, THIS VERY INTENSIVE EXERCISE HAD RESULTED IN 24 0/0 REDUCTION TO 478, OF WHICH 278 GENERAL SERVICE AND 200 PROFESSIONAL. 120 ARE HEADQUARTERS; 80 REGIONAL. 38 OF THESE WERE ESTABLISHED IN 1975 SO NEW NET INCREASE WOULD BE 440.

5. WEST INDICATED THAT "EVENTUALLY" THERE WOULD BE DOCUMENTATION SHOWING LINKAGES BETWEEN SUMMARY BUDGET AND FINAL DOCUMENT, BUT PRIORITY BEING GIVEN TO DEVELOPING THE FINAL 2-VOLUME PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET. THIS WILL COMPARE UPCOMING WITH CURRENT BIENNIAL, AND GIVE MEMBERS FULLER PICTURE OF THE TOTAL BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS, RATHER THAN THE INTERIM STEPS OF PROPOSED INCREASES AND CUTS THEREIN. HE INDICATED THAT "DEAD WOOD" CUTS WERE HARD TO FIND IN VIEW OF THE VIGOROUS ADJUSTMENTS IN 1972/73.

6. COUNTRY COMMENTS LIMITED AND FOLLOWED PREDICTABLE LINES WITH SOME OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY MEXICO AND GUINEA, CRITICIZING CUTS IN PROGRAMS WHICH APPEARED TO BE MORE USEFUL TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND TO THE PUSH FOR DECENTRALIZATION/ UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 ROME 09949 101818Z

REGIONALIZATION. MEXICO SUGGESTED A NEED FOR RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEES ON WORK AND BUDGET - POSSIBLY A REGIONAL STRUCTURE WHICH COULD ADEQUATELY REFLECT FULL ECONOMIC NEEDS.

7. PERHAPS INADVERTENTLY, SOME OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRY COMMENTS RELATING TO NEED FOR CLOSE COOPERATION WITH WFC AND IFAD LED TO SOME RUBBING OF SALT IN THE INTER-SECRETARIAT WOUNDS.

YRIART EXPLAINED THAT THE DG'S POLICY WAS FULL SUPPORT AS WELL AS COOPERATION, AND HE HAD ESTABLISHED A WORKING GROUP HEADED BY DR. KING (ADG, FORESTRY) TO WORK IN DETAIL WITH IFAD. GUINEA, SUPPORTED BY ITALY AND LATER BY PANAMA, THEN DECREIED THE DECISION TO HOLD NEXT IFAD WORKING GROUP MEETING IN GENEVA RATHER THAN ROME, PURPORTEDLY ON GROUNDS FAO NOT PREPARED PROVIDE ADEQUATE SUPPORT AT PROJECTED TIME OF MEETING. SINCE THIS WAS BIG SURPRISE TO YRIART, IT LEFT THE MEETING WITH THE IMPRESSION OF MOST FAULTY COMMUNICATION BETWEEN WFC SECRETARIAT (WHICH SERVICED IFAD WORKING GROUP MEETING LAST WEEK) AND FAO SECRETARIAT. YRIART DID NOT RISE FULLY TO THE BAIT TO ATTEMPT SECURE CHANGE IN MEETING PLACE FOR NEXT IFAD WORKING GROUP.VOLPE

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